

REMARKS

In the Office Action dated November 4, 2002, claim 12 is rejected under 35 USC §112, second paragraph. Claims 1, 10, 11, 12, and 13 are rejected under 35 USC §102(b). Claims 5, 6, 8, and 9 are rejected under 35 USC §103(a).

However, for the reasons set forth below, it is respectfully submitted that Applicant's invention as set forth in independent claims 1 and 13, as well as claims 5, 6, and 8-12 which depend from claim 1, includes features which are not anticipated or rendered obvious by the cited references as posed by the Examiner. Reconsideration is, therefore, respectfully requested.

Claim 12 is rejected under 35 USC §112, second paragraph. Claim 12 has been amended to depend from claim 13 and therefore particularly points and distinctly claims the subject matter which the Applicant regards as the invention.

Claims 1, 11, 12 and 13 are rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by Ghezzi. The Examiner contends that Ghezzi meets the terms of the claims as Applicant has defined them.

Ghezzi clearly disposes an element in the bore at the tip end of the shaft, the element being the spring wire fastening device for the tip. The spring wire is shown as extending the full length of the bore. Although the spring wires are small, they nevertheless have weight which detracts from any use of the hollow bore to minimize tip end mass in order to reduce deflection of the cue ball. Thus, it is submitted that Ghezzi does not teach a hollow void bore as set forth by the Applicant in claim 1.

With respect to claim 13, there is no description or teaching in Ghezzi of any weight relationship between the spring wire and the surrounding shaft wall. Since Ghezzi lacks any appreciation of providing a hollow bore which is devoid of a material having a weight heavier than the weight of the surrounding shaft wall, it is respectfully submitted that Ghezzi clearly does not anticipate Applicant's invention as set forth in claim 13.

Claim 11 depends from claim 1 and claim 12 depends from claim 13 to include all of the features thereof. By dependency, Applicant's invention as set

forth in claims 11 and 12 is likewise submitted to patentably define over Ghezzi for the same reasons set forth above with respect to claims 1 and 13.

Claims 1, 10, 11, 12, and 13 are rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by Seeman. Seeman shows a bore in the shaft section 2. The bore tapers apparently from a narrow end adjacent the tip of the shaft to a wider end at an opposing end. Extending the lines in the drawing through the solid tip end section of the shaft would clearly indicate that the sidewalls of the hollow bore in the shaft portion converge and meet short of the tip end. Thus, Seeman lacks any hollow void bore extending from the tip end as set forth in claims 1 and 13. For this reason, Applicant's invention as set forth in claims 1 and 13, as well as claims 10, 11 and 12 which depends therefrom, is not anticipated by Seeman.

Claim 13 is rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by Lo. In Lo, the stem of the ferrule extends into the tip end of the bore which extends through the entire length of the shaft. Thus, Lo lacks any teaching of a bore extending from the tip end of the shaft to an end in proximity with the tip end which is devoid of material having a weight heavier than that of the surround shaft. Both the shaft 11 and the front connector 20 are formed of carbon fiber and thus would apparently have the same weight. Further, larger mass of the front connector end as shown in the drawing compared to the mass of the thin sidewall of the stem of the front connector could create a weight heavier than the weight of the surrounding shaft wall.

For these reasons, it is respectfully submitted that Applicant's invention as set forth in claim 13 patentably defines over Lo and is not anticipated thereby.

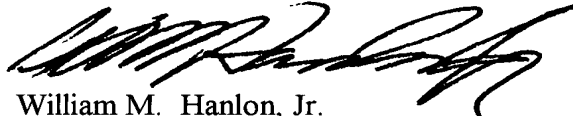
Finally, claims 5, 6, 8, and 9 are rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Ghezzi. By dependency, Applicant's invention as set forth in claims 5, 6, 8, and 9 is submitted to patentably define over Ghezzi for the same reasons set forth above with respect to the patentability of claim 1 over Ghezzi.

In summary, for the reasons set forth above, it is respectfully submitted that Applicant's invention as set forth in claims 1, 5, 6, and 8-13 includes features which are not anticipated or rendered obvious by the cited references as

posed by the Examiner. Thus, it is submitted that claims 1, 5, 6, and 8-13 are in condition for allowance; a notice of which is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'William M. Hanlon, Jr.', is positioned above the printed name.

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